COMMANDERS DIGEST

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AF Vice Chief of Staff Cites Tactical Firepower Progress

Gen. Bruce K. Holloway told members of the American Ordnance Association meeting Nov. 13 at Ft. McNair that with continued progress in tactical firepower "we come closer to the day when we may be able to deter small scale war as effectively as we have prevented nuclear war."

The Air Force vice chief of staff said, "One of the most striking Air Force developments of the past five years has been a dramatic increase in the non-nuclear firepower of our tactical aircraft."

Gen. Holloway gave a progress report on tactical firepower of three wars, then noted that the Air Force today is managing about 700 R&D programs in the limited war area. More than 70 of these relate to armaments and ordnance.

"The United States Air Force undoubtedly is the best equipped in the world for either conventional or nuclear operations," the general pointed out.

Gen. Holloway said further advances in ordnances are possible, based in part on Vietnam experience.

He continued that the experience gained in Vietnam has shown clearly that the firepower of tactical aircraft is a decisive factor in counterinsurgency or limited war.

Gen. Holloway explained that objectives in the development of tactical armaments and ordnance have been to bring airborne firepower to bear on enemy targets rapidly, accurately, selectively, and in all kinds of weather, day or night.

Third Marine Div. Commander Killed In Vietnam Helicopter Explosion

Maj. Gen. Bruno A. Hochmuth, CG, Third Marine Division, was killed Nov. 14 in Vietnam when the helicopter in which he was riding was hit by groundfire, exploded in mid-air and crashed. Four other Americans and a Vietnamese aide also died in the crash.

Gen. Hochmuth was the highest ranking Marine Corps officer to be killed in the war in Vietnam.

Maj. Gen. Rathvon McC. Tompkins, now CG, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C., has been named to succeed Gen. Hochmuth.

SCUBA TEAM INSPECTION—Gen. Ralph E. Haines Jr., Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, talks with members of the U.S. Special Forces SCUBA Detachment at Camp Hardy during a tour of Army Units on Okinawa. Men in wet suits meeting the general are (left to right) Sgt. Robert D. Little, Sp5 Donald A. Dickens and SSgt. David V. Ogo.

Defense Establishes Policy On Holiday Leave, Discharge

The Department of Defense has announced its leave and early discharge policy for the 1967 Christmas Season.

The holiday leave period will extend from Dec. 16, 1967, through Jan. 2, 1968. The extended period is expected to insure that most servicemen will have opportunity for leave over one of the two holidays during the period. The policy also applies overseas where military mission permits. It does not apply to personnel in Vietnam, however, where operational requirements preclude changing normal leave policy.

Military commanders have been directed to schedule individual leaves to coincide with non-peak travel periods on commercial transportation systems, when possible, to give service personnel greater opportunity for making satisfactory travel arrangements.

The early release program permits early separation of personnel whose normal release from active duty otherwise would occur between mid-December and Jan. 2. Release dates will be timed to permit such personnel to be home for Christmas.

Washington Memos

SINCE BOMBING OPERATION in Southeast Asia began June 18, 1965, B-52s have flown more than 11,700 sorties and dropped more than 325,000 tons of conventional bombs. KC-135 Stratotankers have flown more than 39,000 sorties, refueled more than 167,000 aircraft and offloaded more than 1.6 million pounds of fuel.

PERMANENT BRIGADIER GENERALS on the Army Promotion List as of Jan. 1, 1967 will be in zone of consideration for permanent major general. Selection Board is scheduled to meet on or about Dec. 7. Any communications should be addressed to Secretariat for DA Selection Boards, Room BF 726, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310.

AT SIGNING OF H.R. 5894 Women Officer's legislation Nov. 8, President Johnson honored two nurses "for outstanding service in connection with the conflict in which our Nation is engaged in Vietnam." He presented Col. Ethel A. Hoefly, USAF, with Legion of Merit and Maj. Marie L. Rodgers, USA, Bronze Star.

NAVY RESEARCH team is investigating why many Navy recruits from northwestern Ohio, west central Florida and northeastern South Carolina have teeth free of cavities. Navy believes something in water and soil in these areas combines with fluoride to provide increased protection.

AIR FORCE MAJ. Gen. William W. Veal took command of Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan AFB, Calif., Oct. 31, relieving Maj. Gen. Chester W. Cecil who retired from active service. Gen. Veal reported to new post from position as Director, Plans and Programs, Air Force Logistics Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

COMMANDANT OF WEST coast branch of Defense Language Institute, Col. Richard J. Long, USA, was keynote speaker at Junior and State College articulation meeting at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, Calif., Nov. 7. Col. Long spoke on "The Modern Advanced Techniques of Language Instruction in Use at the DLIWC."

CONSTRUCTION HAS begun on nuclear attack submarine USS Trepang, 34th atomic-powered submarine to be built by Electric Boat division, General Dynamics, Groton, Conn. Trepang is designed for anti-submarine warfare missions, and will be 292 feet long and displace 4,100 tons.

TWO MIG-17 INTERCEPTORS were downed Nov. 6 by F-4 Phantom jet crew of Capt. Darrell D. Simmonds and 1st Lt. George H. McKinney Jr., bringing total confirmed Air Force MIG kills to 75. Simmonds and McKinney are second 8th Tactical Fighter Wing "Wolf Pack" crew to shoot down two Communist MIGs in single day.

ARMY AVIATION Materiel Command issued 39 delivery orders totalling $3.3 million to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., for production and delivery of aircraft hoist kits, aircraft frame assemblies, cylinder assemblies, modification kits and related components.

AIRMEN AFFECTED BY recent change in airman grade titles should update their military record — Air Force Form 7—before May 1, 1968.

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND'S Electronics Command researchers believe they have obtained improved accuracy in measuring altitude of aircraft flying over widely different kinds of terrain. Although full evaluation of data is not complete, researchers have used special radar altimeter techniques over rain forests in Panama Canal Zone and at polar icecap to get information for selecting most effective radar altimeter designs and operating techniques for Army's growing helicopter fleet whose missions require ground-skimming flight.

GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER USS Julius A. Furer was commissioned at Boston Naval Shipyard, Nov. 11. New craft is named in honor of late RAdm. Julius A. Furer, an engineer who was credited with invention of submersible pontoon and devised ship design for 110-foot submarine chaser.

AIR FORCE Maj. Gen. Richard P. Klocko, former Air Force Communications Service Commander, will be nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and appointed Director, Defense Communications Agency, Washington, D.C. Currently Deputy Director for DCA, Gen. Klocko will succeed Army Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, who will assume new duties as manager of Sentinel System, U.S. defense against Chinese ICBM force.

AN $11.3 MILLION contract for production and delivery of T55-L-11 gas turbine engines for Army's CH-47 Chinook helicopter program has been awarded to Lycoming Division, Avco Corp., Stratford, Conn., by Army Aviation Materiel Command of St. Louis, Mo.

ALL MAJOR COMMANDS in the United States were represented at an Air Force career motivation conference at Scott AFB, Ill., Nov. 6-9. Discussions were centered around airman retention efforts on a short range basis.

BASIC COURSE FOR administrative officers will begin Jan. 3 at Lackland AFB, Tex. Those from warrant officer to major and civilians above GS-7 who are training for administrative duties may apply through base personnel offices.

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Defense Dept. States Position On Solicitation Legislation

Department of Defense has long reflected executive branch policy that prohibits coercion in soliciting charitable contributions and purchasing government securities but cannot support a bill now before Congress to make violations a court martial offense, hence a criminal act.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) Alfred B. Fitt stated this position Nov. 9 before the Senate Armed Services Committee, saying the armed forces already possess ample authority under the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prosecute those who violate or refuse to obey an order.

He pointed out the bill (S. 1036) would make criminal acts out of errors of judgment, excesses of zeal, misunderstood communications, or misinterpreted actions or motives.

"Administrative personnel action is eminently more suitable," Mr. Fitt said, "and the sharp drop in complaints this year compared to last indicates that administrative action has been effective as well."

Mr. Fitt emphasized that DOD Directive 5035.1 reflects Executive branch policy established by President Kennedy in 1961 to make fund raising truly voluntary and confidential.

Mr. Fitt also noted that the chairman of the 1967 U. S. Savings Bond Drive, Postmaster General O'Brien, drew distinctions between persuasion and coercion and promotion and pressure.

"The job of the supervisor is to present the case for bonds on its merits, indicating what the employee has to do to join the program," Mr. O'Brien said, "and that is all. Nothing else is required; nothing else is expected; nothing else is wanted; nothing else is legitimate."

LBJ Proposes Peace Talks Aboard Neutral Ship at Sea

President Johnson has proposed peace talks aboard a neutral ship on a neutral sea to the government of North Vietnam.

The Commander-in-Chief made the proposal during a Veterans Day address to the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, operating off the coast of California in preparation for another Vietnam tour.

The President said negotiations at sea would allow the parties to meet each other half way and pointed out that the famous Atlantic Charter was signed aboard the USS August in 1941 by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Mr. Johnson pledged the United States would follow the dream of peace anywhere, even including the seas in the search.

"Now hear this," he said to Hanoi, "You force us to fight but you have only to say the word for our quarrel to be buried beneath the waves."

SMALL BUSINESS AWARD—RAdm. H. J. P. Foley Jr., SC, USN, CO of Navy's Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, presents a plaque awarded by Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, to William F. O'Connell (center), ASO Small Business Specialist, and Edward A. Johnston, Assistant Director, Purchase Division. The plaque recognizes ASO's support of the Navy's Small Business Program during FY67.

DOD Schedules Major Change In Supply Classification

A coordinated system for supply classification—throughout the Department of Defense—will be started Jan. 1, 1968, the Pentagon said. It is expected to be completely operational within 12 months.

The change, termed the most significant in 50 years, is designed to offer more efficient and effective operation. It is expected to provide all elements of the Department of Defense with a major management tool for logistic planning and operations.

A new 10-category classification structure will replace the outdated five-category system and provide common terminology for clearer communication between and within the office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the services and unified commands and military departments.

SecDef's Thanksgiving Message

This Thanksgiving Day will find Americans giving thanks for the abundant resources of our Nation.

Many of you in the Armed Forces will be able to share this festive day with your families. Others are serving in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world.

On this traditional family day, wherever you may be, at home or abroad, I extend to you and your families our Nation's gratitude for your devotion and courage in the cause of freedom.

LBJ Signs Legislation Improving Women Officer Career Opportunities

President Johnson has signed into law legislation giving some 12,362 women officers in the Armed Forces virtually the same career promotion and tenure opportunities now accorded to men.

The new law corrects various provisions in the old law which applied only to women officers, and which made them lag behind their male counterparts in many important respects.

Women line officers of any service may now continue to hold the rank of colonel or Navy captain when reassigned from the director's post.

Numerical restrictions on colonels and captains in the various nursing and medical specialist corps have been removed, as well as similiar restrictions on the number of lieutenant colonels.

Also struck off the statutes were a host of retirement and separation provisions which generally contributed to a woman's leaving service earlier than male officers.

The bill also makes it possible for women to hold general and flag officer rank.

Congress was told that the question of whether a woman officer may achieve "star rank" depends entirely on her individual qualifications and the availability of a specific position and that DOD has no special opportunities in view nor can it predict when they may come.

Telescopic Hangars Installed On Two Navy Amphibious Ships

Telescopic helicopter hangars aboard two of Navy's newest amphibious transport docks are expected to improve amphibious operations.

Installed aboard USS Cleveland and USS Dubuque, the hangars protect helicopters from corrosion and provide a place for maintenance.

When not needed, the hangars are retracted, and the exposed deck space used for take-offs and landings.

RAF VISITOR — Air Chief Marshal Sir John Grundy, new Chief of Staff, Royal Air Force, and Maj. Leon Plotnitzky, USAF, an 81st Tactical Fighter Squadron pilot, discuss the merits of the F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber during the chief marshal's visit to Laarbruch Air Base, Germany.

Army Announces Totals Of FY67 Cost Reduction

Army reports FY67 dollar savings of $234.4 million and total effect savings for fiscal years 67-69 of $467.6 million.

The savings were 105 percent and 125 percent, respectively, above established goals of $224 million and $374 million.

Rules for the cost reduction program were changed in FY67. Reports of savings are now limited to amounts realized in the current year from current year actions, and estimates of savings expected in the two succeeding fiscal years from the same actions.

The program for FY67 showed savings of $160.8 million. Included was $45.4 million attributable to elimination of Okinawa from the supply pipeline to Southeast Asia.

Other savings were accomplished largely through shifts from single source buys to competitive procurements and by procuring materials and services on a multi-year rather than a single-year basis.

AF Establishes Program For Career Inquiries

Air Force's Officer Career Development Division of the Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., has initiated a program to handle inquiries from certain officers concerning career development and improve communications with the individual officers.

Maj. Ralf M. Miller, Office of the Directorate of Personnel Resources and Distribution, has been named career counselor for the program, called "Project Air Force Career."

Maj. Miller will counsel by mail from his office at the center, answering questions and obtaining information on career development for individuals in the initial group. This group will involve 1,000 Squadron Officer School (SOS) students in classes 67C, 68A, and 68B.

The program will be progressively expanded and eventually include the entire officer force, officials said.

The Career Counselor will obtain information from Air Staff agencies concerned with the subject of the query.

Interpretations on career policies and the status of developing programs will also be supplied.

Army Foot Bridge Passes Field Test in Vietnam

A new type of foot bridge that can be quickly set up has been successfully tested in Vietnam.

The 2nd Bn, 60th Inf, tested the Troop Foot Bridge (TFB) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. It was then taken to Vietnam. Using grapnel hooks and casting lines, the TFB can be set up and retrieved over streams up to 50-feet wide.

A test was made on a 90-foot river after one man swam to the opposite shore with a lead line. The bridge had six 15-foot sections and the operation took 30 minutes.

All troops carried full combat loads for the test. As many as 20 stood on the bridge at one time. No one lost footing or fell off the bridge.

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